

Agricultural community recognizes North-Halton farmer

Halton Region's Farmer of the Year, Harold Middlebrook of RR 2, Milton, was honored at a banquet held in the Acton Legion.

The dairy farmer was presented with a plaque by the Segsworth Family of Milton, who co-sponsored the event along with the Ontario Federation of Agriculture. He also received plaques from Halton Region Chairman Peter Pomeroy and MP Garth Turner.

"The objective of the award is to recognize individuals for their continued successes in agriculture and their contribution to the improvement of agriculture in Halton," said Halton Ag. Rep. Marie McNabb.

She said there are four criteria judges base their decision on: out-

standing achievement in farming business; past experiences in the field of agriculture; involvement and contribution to the agriculture community and involvement in community activities.

Judging by his resume, Mr. Middlebrook has more than met the criteria.

He began his farming career 52 years ago with his father in the Mallon Airport area of York County. In 1948 he married Elva and together they moved to their current 100 acre farm on Walkers Line, in Burlington.

They had three children, Carla dairy nutrition consultant; Mary Lou, a public school teacher and Keith, who is now in a partnership with his father on the farm.

Mr. Middlebrook and Keith own

100 acres and rent a further 100 acres. They have 65 head of registered Holstein cattle with 28 milking cows. Their current BCA is 158 (milk) and 160 (fat). They average 17,600 pounds of milk per cow per year with a 4.0 per cent butterfat test.

Over the past 40 years, numerous improvements have been made to the farmstead, including the addition of comfort stalls, a new calf barn, milkhouse and heifer barn. He has also built an implement shed to store round bales and all machinery.

Outside the farm operation, Mr. Middlebrook has been a dedicated participant in Halton and Provincial agricultural organizations. He has served as chairman for the Halton Soil and Crop Improvement

Association, Halton Federation of Agriculture and Halton Milk Committee. He was the founding Chairman of the Halton Agriculture Advisory Committee, spearheaded the inception of the Halton Annual Deer Hunt and was Chairman of the Farm Family Festival in 1988 and Director for United Breeders and the Ontario Dairy Herd Improvement Association.

The various agricultural committees Mr. Middlebrook has participated in include the Property Committee of the Halton Federation of Agriculture, which led to provincial duties as Regional Director to the Ontario Federation of Agriculture. He also spent 14 years representing Halton at OFA on the equalized farm assessment program.

Community involvement includes being first vice-president of Halwell Mutual Fire Insurance Company. He has been appointed by Regional government to the Halton Waste Management Site Advisory Committee and acts as a representative from this committee to the Waste Haulers Practices Committee.

Mr. Middlebrook is also the Vestry Clerk of St. George's Anglican Church in Lowville, a former treasurer and Chairman of the Upper Burlington Citizens Forum. He also headed up the Steering Committee of the 4-H 75th Anniversary in Halton Region.

Over the years, Harold and his family have hosted school tours for both schoolchildren and their teachers at his farm.

Farmers must unite to confront challenging future

The Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) has elected its leadership team for 1992 to take the general farm organization down a new road leading to national food security.

Re-elected during the convention held in Mississauga were President Roger George, First Vice President Jack Wilkinson and Second Vice President Bill Weaver.

Newly elected to the position of Executive Member for 1992 is Tony Morris, a farmer from Bruce County. Mr. Morris joins

incumbents Dona Stewardson, Lambton County; Ed Segsworth, Halton Region; and Gerry Carey, Prescott, to complete the seven person OFA Executive.

During the convention, OFA President Roger George told the 400 farm delegates that "farming is an essential industry and it is our duty to gain that recognition from apathetic consumers and uncaring politicians."

He warned the delegates that "the road ahead is not without danger," but stressed that "it is the right road, the road of

agricultural destiny."

Mr. George urged the family farm representatives to "break the Third Line of Defence mentality" that has gripped the agricultural industry for the past several years which has resulted in ad hoc programs to deal with the effects of agricultural economic shortfalls caused by national and international conditions beyond the farmers' control. Instead he challenged the delegates to work toward establishing and implementing a farmer-driven agenda for

agricultural stability and farm profit.

Taking up the challenge, the delegates targeted key areas to be addressed in the coming year. These included increased dialogue with consumers, rural unity, and farm financial security; and all vowed to increase agricultural lobbying efforts. "This is an agenda for profit, an agenda for national food security and an agenda for Canada," said Mr. George, "because a country without its own food supply is a country without a future."

The thread of agricultural unity was consistently woven throughout the convention as OFA members and commodity board representatives called for more farm coalitions like the grains and oilseeds lobby established in June.

"Ontario farm organizations and commodity groups have

come to realize the value of working together," said Mr. George. "In 1992, OFA will do everything it can to deliver the message of the family farm to politicians. Whether it be livestock, grains and oilseeds, supply management, horticulture, game farming, beekeeping, fruit or tobacco, we will continue to defend agricultural policies and work together to search for new concepts."

Delegates called the three-day convention "challenging, exhilarating and positive" during a time of agricultural frustration and anger. "Ontario farmers are fighters," said Mr. George. "We are NOT going to give up our industry. Together we are going to fight to ensure its survival."



Hydro Commissioners

Any hydro-related decisions made during the next three years will ultimately rest with these four gentlemen. They are the new Halton Hills Hydro Commissioners who were officially sworn in during a

special ceremony at the Halton Hills Civic Centre. (Pictured above, left to right) Murt Allison, Dobbie Frizzell, Bill Smith and Jim Fisher. (Herald Photo).



History restored

Canadian Military Studies Museum's Frank Grant recently added an extremely important piece of military history to his museum in Limehouse - the battle sword of Japanese General Yamashita. The sword was presented to Lt. General Robert Eichelberger after it was surrendered to General Douglas MacArthur by the Japanese General at the end of World War II. Mr. Grant also won best show at the annual Militaria Antiques Xtravaganza, held Sept. 20, 21, and 22 in Baltimore. This is his second time he has won the award. (Herald Photo)

Country Christmas

Christmas is in the Country will fill the air at Kortright on Thursday, Dec. 12, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. It's a special evening program: a natural for cultivating the festive mood in your family.

Roast chestnuts over an open fire, take a lantern walk, learn about natural Christmas folklore and make a one-of-a-kind Christmas craft. Join the carolling around a giant Yule bonfire. There will also be special Christmas film showings in the Kortright theatre that evening.

Kortright Centre for Conservation is just north of Metro Toronto. Take Highway 400 to Major Mackenzie Drive (at Canada's Wonderland), go west three km to Pine Valley Drive, then south one km.

For further information and tickets call (416) 832-2289.

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